

CLAIMS

1. A method of editing a sequence of image frames, where the sequence is represented by compressed input data, said method utilizing an image sequence processing system and comprising:

5 receiving information that identifies location within the compressed data of an independently coded region, where the independently coded region is present in at least two frames of the sequence and the information identifies location
10 within each one of the at least two frames;

decompressing the independently coded region from compressed data for at least two frames;

using the image processing system to edit the image data which has been decompressed, to
15 thereby substantively alter that image data;

recompressing edited data in a manner that is compatible with the compressed input data; and

mixing the recompressed edited data with the compressed input data and generating therefrom
20 an output signal;

wherein for at least one frame, edited data is inserted into the compressed input data lieu of data which has been decompressed, to thereby affect editing of part of at least one image
25 frame while not decompressing other image data for the frame.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the compressed input data is bitstream data that has been quantized and Huffman coded, and wherein decompressing

the independently coded region includes decompressing it
5 to at least motion vector and residual format.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein
decompressing the independently coded region includes
decompressing it to the spatial domain.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein using the
image processing system to edit the image data includes
editing the data in the spatial domain.

5. A method according to claim 2, wherein using the
image processing system to edit the image data includes
editing the data in the discrete cosine transform
domain.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein using the
image processing system to edit the image data includes
performing color correction upon image data
corresponding to the independently coded region.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein using the
image processing system to edit the image data includes
substituting different image data for original image
data into the independently coded region.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein using the
image processing system to edit the image data includes
substituting a second image or sequence of images for
original image data into the independently coded region.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein
substituting a second image or sequence of images
includes performing at least one of scaling, cropping,
and adjusting perspective of the second image or

5 sequence of images, and wherein an output signal is created featuring the second image or sequence of images mixed into the independently coded region.

10. A method according to claim 7, wherein substituting different image data includes inserting a logo.

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